

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00 IO-13

OES-06 DOTE-00 INT-05 /096 W
----- 043737

R 281008Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8084
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 11133

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, RP, JA

SUBJECT: ROMULO ASKS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPAN NEXT MONTH

REF: MANILA 10889

1. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS PUBLISHED JULY 28, FOREIGN SECRETARY CARLOS P. ROMUL TOLD PRESS THAT HE HAS SUGGESTED TO JAPANESE AMBASSADOR MASAO SAWAKI, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM JAPAN, THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS BEGIN "RENEGOTIATION" OF THE TREATY OF AMITY, COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION IN MANILA NEXT MONTH (FOLLOWING ROMULO'S RETURN FROM TRIP TO PRC). ROMULO SAID THAT SAWAKI REPLIED BY ASKING FOR A GOP DRAFT OF WHAT GOP WANTED TO INCLUDE IN TREATY.

2. ROMULO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE GOP WAS COMPELLED TO NOTIFY THE JAPANESE OF ITS INTENTION TO "TERMINATE" THE TREATY WITHIN SIX MONTHS, OTHERWISE THE TREATY WOULD HAVE CONTINUED IN FORCE ANOTHER FULL YEAR. HE SAID THAT THE RENEGOTIATIONS WOULD REMOVE "ONEROUS" PROVISIONS THAT HAVE BECOME IRRITANTS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. ROMULO DID NOT SPECIFY THE IRRITANTS, BUT THE PRESS REPORTS GRATUITIOUSLY CITED "DUMPING OF
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JAPANESE GOODS," JAPANESE FISHING IN PHILIPPINE WATERS,

THE COPPER IMPORT CUTBACKS OF 1975, ETC.

3. AS USUAL, THE PRESS REPORTS TENDED TO PUT THE BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT ON THE GOP ACTION IN ABROGATING THE TREATY. ACCORDING JAPANESE EMBASSY SOURCES, WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED WAS THAT AMBASSADOR SAWAKI HAD CALLED ON SECRETARY ROMULO ON JULY 27 TO COMPLAIN THAT THE GOJ "WAS VERY MUCH DISMAYED" OVER THE MANNER IN WHICH THE PHILIPPINES CONVEYED ITS NOTICE TO TERMINATE THE TREATY. SAWAKI POINTED OUT THAT THE SIX MONTH PERIOD OF NOTIFICATION ACTUALLY BEGAN ON JULY 26 AND NOT JUNE 26(SATURDAY) WHEN THE DFA UNCEREMONIOUSLY DELIVERED THE NOTE TO THE HOME A A JAPANESE EMBOFF.

3. AMB. SAWAKI ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IF THE GOP WAS SERIOUS ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS, IT MUST SUBMIT A LIST OF ITS DESIDERATA. SECRETARY ROMULO SIDESTEPED THE QUESTION BY ASKING WHETHER HE COULD STOP OVER IN TOLYO ON SEPTEMBER 12 TO 14 ON HIS WAY TO THE UNGA TO DISCUSS THE TEATY. SAWAKI THEN REPEATED THE URGENT NEED FOR A LIST OF WHAT THE GOP WANTED AND SAID THAT TWO OR THREE EXCHANGES OF VIEWS MUST ALSO TAKE PLACE IN THE INTERVAL. IN RESPONSE, ROMULO RAISED THE SUBJECT OF AUSTRALIAN/JAPANESE AGREEMENT SIGNED LAST MONTH, THE SO-CALLED NARA TREATY (A TERM COINED BY FORMER PM WHITLAM FROM "NIPPON/AUSTRALIA RELATIONS AGREEMENT"). ROMULO WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN HAVING THE NEW RP/JAPAN AGREEMENT PATTERNED AFTER THE AUSTRALIAN MODEL, AND HE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO ITS TREATMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES. THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IS NOT SURE WHETHER THIS IS A PERSONAL (ROMULO) OR A FORMAL (GOP) REQUEST.

4. THE JAPANESE EMBASSY DOES NOT EXPECT TO RECEIVE A LIST OF GOP DESIDERATA SOON AND DOUBTS WHETHER A NEW AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED BEFORE JANUARY 26, 1977 WHEN THE DENOUNCED TREATY EXPIRES. IN ORDER TO AVOID A LAPSE OF TREATY RELATIONS, SAWAKI SUGGESTED TO ROMULO THAT THE GOP SIMPLY WITHDRAW ITS NOTE, CONFIDENTIAL

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WHICH THE JAPANESE HAVE NOT YET FORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGED. (THE JAPANESE DO NOT BELIEVE THE GOP CAN DO THIS, HAVING PUBLICLY THROWN THE TREATY TO THE WOLVES). SAWAKI ALSO SUGGESTED TO ROMULO THAT THE GOJ COULD SEND A NOTE SIGNIFYING ITS READINESS TO "RE-NEGOTIATE" AND PROPOSING THAT THE PRESENT TREATY CONTINUE IN FORCE UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF A NEW AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY LAPSE IN TREATY

RELATIONS. THE GOP CAN THEN REPLY WITH ITS AGREE-
MENT TO THIS FORMULA.

5. COMMENT: FOREGOING SUPPORTS OUR INITIAL SUSPICION
THAT GOP HAD NOT REALLY THOUGHT ITS ACTION THROUGH AND
HAD FURTHER HANDLED NOTIFICATION TO JAPANESE IN A HASTY
AND UNDIPLOMATIC MANNER. GOP'S SECOND THOUGHTS ARE NOW
FINDING EXPRESSION IN ITS EMPHASIS ON "RE-NEGOTIATION"
OF "ONEROUS PROVISIONS". AMONG OTHER THINGS WHICH DIS-
TURB THE JAPANESE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT GOP MIS-
HANDLING OF SITUATION AND ITS SUBSEQUENT ATTEMPTS TO RE-
COVER FROM AWKWARD POSITION IN WHICH IT PLACED ITSELF
COULD RESULT IN REAWAKENING OF ANTI-JAPANESE SENTIMENT.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, AMITY, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA11133
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760291-0950
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760714/aaaaalui.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MANILA 10889
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROMULO ASKS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPAN NEXT MONTH
TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, RP, JA, (ROMULO, CARLOS P)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006